Sonic's Week-Long Halloween

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Sonic's Week-Long Halloween

by orphan_account

Summary

After a blindingly bright flash of light, Sonic finds himself trapped in a time loop on Halloween. Oddly enough, the only other person who knows is his rival. Will they make it out in time, or will Shadow ruin it all?

Notes

HELLO AND WELCOME TO THE NEONZPARKLEZZZ HALLOWEEN SPECIAL WHERE I PUT SONIC THROUGH HELL! ENJOY! I love halloween...

See the end of the work for more notes

Sonic's Shitty Situation

"Sonic, you're here!" a cheery voice shouts, putting a drink in his waiting paw. "You're not late, either!"

Sonic grins, showing his sharpened vampire teeth and flourishing his cape. "I would not miss it for the world, Ames! We all know you throw a mean party," he compliments, putting an arm around her in a side hug.

She chuckles, tipping her pointed witch hat. "Guilty!"

Knuckles approaches the pair dressed in his obviously homemade werewolf costume. His fists are overflowing with candy and his mouth is speckled with chocolate. "Hey Sonic!" he greets, voice muffled.

Tails appears from behind his hulking figure, holding tightly onto a basket of candy. "He took *all* of my Snickers!"

Sonic scoffs, ruffling his little brother's fur, "Serves you right for liking *Snickers*, bro bro. I don't play around with Starbursts, though."

"Oh, you can have those!" Knuckles allows as if it's his stash. "I don't like the paper on the outside."

"You've been eating the wrapper?" Amy wonders aloud.

"That's, like, the best part," Sonic complains, rolling his eyes.

"You've been eating the wrappers and *enjoying* it?" Tails shouts, grimacing.

Sonic suddenly feels something poking his back. Sticks is behind him, poking him with a metal spatula. "You still human?" she asks, "Or did they get you, too?" She grins widely, posing in her also homemade robot costume. "Nothing scarier than bein' an amalgamation of metal!"

Knuckles scoffs, "I bet I could think of something scarier. Watch this. Hey, Shadow!" he calls to the black hedgehog in the corner of the room, "Are you even in costume? I can't tell if you're dressed as a clown or if that's just your face!"

Before Shadow can even react to the teasing of the echidna, Amy has already slapped him across the back of the head. "Knuckles! We're not hostile against Shadow anymore, he's a friend!"

"Which means I should be able to berate him the same!" Knuckles argues. "Hey Sonic."

"What?"

"A vampire's fitting seeing as you always suck the life out of a room."

"Ooh! Roast me, Knuckles!" Tails chirps as Sonic tries to recover from being absolutely scorched.

"You make a really great ghost, Tails! I barely ever notice when you walk into a room."

Amy puts a stop to it, yelling, "That's *enough!* We're all here now, let's take a picture!" Then she adds on, "Before I kill all of you guys and force your bodies to eat a meal in peace."

"What was that?" Sonic asks, swiveling his head around.

"Nothing, dearest! Let me fetch my camera. It's an antique from the thrift store, so it should turn out pretty cool and spooky!" she explains excitedly, jumping up and down. Her heels click on the floor as she prances away and drags the hefty camera back.

Everyone stands in order—even Shadow. Sonic is elected to take the picture because he can run and pose before the flash goes off. So he counts it off, "Three... two... one!"

Click!

Sonic wakes up at home. *"Wait,"* he thinks, *"something isn't right. No way the party got* this *crazy."*

Then he hears two distinctive voices approaching his shack. They seem to be arguing, and vaguely he feels that this has happened before.

"The lights should be *pastel* orange and purple! It will provide an even contrast that also gives off more light and brings out the color of the other decor!" Amy is shouting as she enters the door to his shack. She's holding bags stuffed full of Halloween decorations, as is her debate partner, Tails.

The important thing is that this is *exactly* what happened yesterday. He woke up to the shouting, then Tails follows up with: "But this is about bringing out the traditional feeling and spirit of the holiday! If

we use neons it'll be spookier and more intense!"

Amy doesn't even skip a beat. Her head whips to Sonic, now lying awake in his hammock. "What do you think, Sonic?" she asks.

"Compromise and use both," he answers. "Why are you two still arguing about this? The party was yesterday anyway."

They both share a glance with each other then laugh at him. Tails sarcastically jests, "Good joke bud. We're not falling for such an amateur prank."

"Time loop," his mind supplies for him. He grins at the thought, *"Perfect."*

Sonic yawns and leans back in his hammock. He must be the only one who realizes they're stuck, and he plans to use it to his advantage. Another night of Halloween sounds like a treat to him, even if he doesn't remember the first one. So he shuts his mouth and heads back to sleep as Amy and Tails leave to argue about the candy arrangement.

When he wakes up a second time he's reminded of how miserable he felt previously. He wakes up near the afternoon with his head spinning. His body is heavy and gross but he gets up and stumbles to his kitchen for a bowl of cereal. He already knows his milk is spoiled but he checks again anyway. Yesterday he wasn't as lucky.

Once he finishes his cereal he spends the rest of his day running around up until he meets the gang at Meh Burger. It's there he realizes that he might not want to be stuck in the loop. His day wasn't necessarily remarkable, he didn't even have to fight off Eggman's robots. Everything blended together into one mess of a day.

"What are you thinking about, Sonic?" Tails turns to him, shocking him out of his stupor.

He plasters a smile onto his face, "I'm just excited for tonight." It's not a lie, but it feels like a loaded answer. Nobody else picks up on it, they all grin and laugh in agreement.

"So do you guys really think that douche Shadow is gonna show?" Sticks asks them.

"He will," Sonic supplies. He's practically seen the future, so he knows Shadow shows up. "He told me," he lies.

"You're in contact with him?" Amy scoffs, "*I'm* supposed to be the friendly and forgiving one!"

"Amy, have you thought about the music for tonight?" Tails asks, changing the topic of conversation.

Before he knows it he's at Amy's doorstep in his vampire getup.

"Sonic, you're here!" a cheery voice shouts, putting a drink in his waiting paw. "You're not late, either!"

Sonic groans, trudging to sit down. "Yeah, whatever," he mutters.

She chuckles nervously, putting a hand on his shoulder, "Is something w-"

Knuckles approaches the pair dressed in his obviously homemade werewolf costume. His fists are overflowing with candy and his mouth is speckled with chocolate. "Hey Sonic!" he greets, voice muffled.

Tails appears from behind his hulking figure, holding tightly onto a basket of candy. "He took *all* of my Snickers!"

Sonic scoffs, ruffling his little brother's fur, "Yeah, I know. Starbursts are better anyway."

"Oh, you can have those!" Knuckles allows as if it's his stash. "I don't like the paper on the outside."

"You've been eating the wrapper?" Amy wonders aloud.

Sticks wanders through the door then. "Is Shadow not showin' up?" she asks, glancing around. "I called it!"

"Can't expect much from him. He doesn't even need a Halloween costume, he's already scary enough!" Knuckles jokes. Sonic does find it strange he hasn't shown up. He knows from experience that Shadow is supposed to be here.

Amy has already slapped him across the back of the head. "Knuckles! We're not hostile against Shadow anymore, he's a friend!"

"Which means I should be able to berate him the same!" Knuckles argues. "Hey Sonic."

"What?"

"A vampire's fitting seeing as you always suck the life out of a room."

"Ooh! Roast me, Knuckles!" Tails chirps as Sonic rolls his eyes from being scorned a second time in the same manner.

"You make a really great ghost, Tails! I barely ever notice when you walk into a room."

Amy puts a stop to it, yelling, "That's *enough!* We're all here now, let's take a picture!" Then she adds on, "Before I kill all of you guys and force your bodies to eat a meal in peace. Now, let me fetch my camera. It's an antique from the thrift store, so it should turn out pretty cool and spooky!" she explains excitedly, jumping up and down. Her heels click on the floor as she prances away and drags the hefty camera back.

Everyone stands in order—except for Shadow. Sonic is elected to take the picture again, but as his feet involuntarily carry him to the device he realizes that something is off. He can't keep himself from bringing his hands up and snapping the picture.

Click!

Tails' Time of Terror!

Chapter Summary

> Shadow holds the harsh reality of the camera far out of reach from Sonic, instead making him face emotional hell. First things first, he mends things with his little brother, Tails!

Chapter Notes

> Hi ther :> (say it back)

See the end of the chapter for more notes

Sonic wakes up. His chest is heaving and his head pounds with anxiety. Everything is the exact same again.

"The lights should be *pastel* orange and purple! It will provide an even contrast that also gives off more light and brings out the color of the other decor!"

"But this is about bringing out the traditional feeling and spirit of the holiday! If we use neon it'll be spookier and more intense!"

"What do you think, Sonic?"

"Do both," he tells them in annoyance. "Just do both."

Tails chuckles at him, "Well, somebody's grumpy today!"

"We've gotta go, anyway," Amy scowls, making her way back out of the shack. Tails glances back at Sonic hopefully, but they have work to do. They follow Amy with a full box of black and orange glittery foam decorations. Definitely overkill.

"Shadow never showed up to the party yesterday. If he's changed, then maybe he remembers and I can go ask him for help!" he thinks. He jumps up and races off into the forest towards Shadow's cave. After a while of looking around, he smells smoke nearby. That's when he remembers he skipped his dry cereal today. "Shadow? Hey, Shads, you out here?" he calls out, "I need y... to talk to you!"

Shadow appears behind him suddenly, shocking him when he speaks. "What did you do?" he demands, pouncing on Sonic from behind. He shoves Sonic's muzzle into the dirt, growling like a savage animal.

He coughs up the earth and sputters, "*Relax* asshole! I just came to-ack!"

"Shut up!" he shouts, forcing Sonic's head back into the ground.

"How can I tell you what I did if you won't..." he stops, catching his breath, "let me?"

"I just like seeing your face in the dirt," he admits with a sadistic grin, although allowing Sonic to stand up.

"Oh? You're into some pretty freaky stuff, Shads."

"Talk before I take that bandana and use it to hang you from the trees and let all your blood drain from your asshole."

"Proving me right," he chimes again, then clears his throat. "Anyway, we're in a time loop."

"I know," Shadow agrees.

"No one else seems to know except for *us*. What does that mean?"

"I couldn't care less."

"Don't you want out?" Sonic yells at him, his eyes wide and angered.

"I couldn't. Care. *Less.*"

He scoffs and begins to pace back and forth. "Chaos- Of course you don't care! You're an emotionless outcast isolated in a cave in the middle of *nowhere!* You couldn't care if you wanted! All you ever think about is yourself, and I thought *I* was the one with that problem! Right now, every single person I know is *stuck* reliving the same day over and over and over except for *you*. All you want to do is hide. I guess it was stupid to ever think you could change."

"*Touching*," Shadow sneers, his eyes scrunching. He has to hide how guilty it makes him really feel.

"Shut up! Just shut up," Sonic snaps, then his voice dims. He spins on his heel and begins to walk back to the village, "I'll figure it out myself."

Shadow bites the inside of his cheek and he acts quickly. "Wait," he says quietly, almost enough that Sonic can't hear it. "I'll help."

"No-"

"For heaven's sake, you can't do anything by yourself," he grabs Sonic by the arm and practically begins to drag him, "It's the camera. If we hurry we can probably get it before Amy does and figure out what's happening."

"You're helping me?"

"I'm not helping *you*."

The pair reach the thrift store just as they see Amy checking out with the dark wooden box containing the camera. "Damnit, we just missed her!"

"Distract her."

"What?"

"Go distract her. I'll take the box and see what's in there. Are you slow?"

"No!"

"Then hurry up."

Sonic races up to Amy, a smile plastered on his face. She's instantly suspicious if her expression is anything to go off of. "Hey Ames!" he greets, trying to keep any suspicion out of his tone. "That's a cool box."

"Sonic what the heck are you doing?"

"I need to talk to you!" he says quickly. "Let's sit down. Over... over here!" he motions at a nearby bench.

"I don't have time for this."

"Please, Amy! It's important. I swear I'll make it worth your time!"

Meanwhile Shadow watches on, concealed in a patch of bushes. He sees Amy get coerced to the park bench, where she puts the box down beside her and turns her attention to Sonic. He's lucky to have such an attentive friend. Sonic is trying to form a coherent string of words to keep her focus, but she just looks more and more confused. Obviously, he has to do this quickly.

While Amy's back is turned he clicks open the latch on the box and

turns the camera over a few times. It's old and dusty, but that's expected. It's the whole aesthetic Amy's chasing. Then he turns his attention to the box. On the bottom is inscribed:

Six days to fix; no more, no less
Tell another soul and the plan is wrecked
True love's kiss shall resolve the loop
And true love is just in front of you

"Oh hell *no."*

Shadow knows one thing, and it's that he is *not* partaking in this fairytale cliché.

"Well I sure enjoyed your very important question about... crab evolution? But I'm afraid I have to get going."

Shadow takes this as his cue to get the hell out of there. He secures the camera and conceals himself back into the leaves and watches as Sonic releases a sigh of relief. He falls back into the bench, exhausted. Amy skips away with her untouched precious cargo.

"Crab evolution?" Shadow asks, stepping out of his hiding place and joining Sonic on the opposite side of the bench. "*Really?*"

"It was the only thing I could think of! I'd like to see *you* come up with anything better."

"I could. I am better than you."

"Just tell me you figured something out."

Shadow can't tell him what it says. They're the only two who realize they're in a time loop and can remember anything, so that must mean they have to...

He can't even think about it!

He makes up a lie, the first thing he can think of, "It said you have six days to resolve kept secrets before the loop is permanent."

"I have to *what?* Are you sure?"

"Yes I'm sure. What, you don't think I can read?"

"You *do* live in a cave," he reminds skeptically.

"I'm the ultimate lifeform!"

"Moving on, we're lucky. I know exactly how to get this all over with!" Sonic says excitedly, jumping from his seat. "We need to go talk to Tails."

Shadow stands to trail behind him, "Why? Is that fox hiding something?"

"I'm pretty sure. They've been avoiding me lately," he shrugs. "They're probably working in their workshop by now. Come on."

He can't get the words out before Sonic races out of sight, but he speaks anyway, "Haven't I helped you out enough already?"

When Shadow catches up to him he's peeking out at Tails from behind the door. "Who's slow now?" he taunts, earning a sharp slap. "Ow! What the fuck-"

"Sonic? What are you doing back there?" Tails calls out, approaching the pair cautiously.

Sonic stumbles over his words as he shoots out, "Uhh... interrogate! I'm bad cop you're good cop."

"*I'm* good cop?"

"Go with it!" he shouts quietly. Then he turns to his little brother with eyes so fierce it catches everyone off guard. "We know about the bodies."

"The... the what?" Tails stammers, putting their paws up in defense. "I don't know anything about that!"

"Stop fucking around, hedgehog," Shadow orders. "We're here about your-"

"We're here 'cause yer hidin' somethin'!" he yells, gaining a sudden southern accent. Sonic loves playing the bad cop. He slams his fists on the table, narrowing his eyes, "I'll get it outta ya if I gotta rip ya open 'n-"

"That's enough," Shadow interjects, shoving Sonic away. "I apologize for my partner-" he slips into the routine by accident, "I mean for Sonic! He means to ask-"

"What's with all the shiftiness?" Sonic finally finishes their thought.

Tails' eyes shift between both of them before they open their mouth to speak, "I have no clue what you mean. Tell me what's going on-"

"You've been acting strange; different. You never come around anymore and when you do you never speak to me! It's like you... you don't even associate with me anymore," Sonic admits as he takes a more serious tone. "What's going on with you?"

Shadow takes a step back, leaning with his arms crossed against the wall. He looks away from the suddenly very tense conversation, blending into the background.

"You're right," Tails nods, their gaze stuck to the floor. "I *have* been hiding something from you, Sonic. Promise me- promise me you won't freak out!"

Sonic holds out his pinky with that usual reassuring look in his eye. "Promise," he confirms.

Tails grins brightly and hooks their pinky on Sonic's. "I got a full ride scholarship!" they shout.

The blue hedgehog practically lights up at the news. He lifts Tails in the air, cheering and shouting. "That's awesome! Oh, that's amazing! I'm so proud of you Tails!"

"Thanks Sonic," they respond, sounding a bit downtrodden. "But..."

"But?" Sonic repeats, still holding Tails as they glance down expectantly. "There aren't any universities on the island," he finishes for them. "You're leaving."

"I haven't decided on leaving yet!"

"I'll be more upset if you *don't* leave!"

Tails stops, stunned. "What?" they mutter.

"I'm not letting you throw away an opportunity to grow that huge brain o' yours!" he chuckles in response, ruffling the fur on their head. "You didn't wanna tell me because you were afraid of leaving?"

Tails jumps into Sonic's arms, burying their face into his chest. "I don't know if I can make it out there on my own," they tell him. "You've always been here! Of course I want to be independent, but what if I need you?"

"Then you *call me*, Tails! No matter where you are in the world you're still my genius little brother! It's more likely *I'll* end up needing *you*, anyway," he admits shyly. "Nothing changes, you got that?"

"Yeah!"

Shadow accompanies Sonic to the party that night. They wait outside for a while as everyone is mingling just so Sonic doesn't have to hear them say the same things over again. He wonders only in the back of his mind if that was the extent of his work. Either way, he has more days to fix this. He smiles down at himself because everything is going to be fine.

"Sonic! Shadow!" Sticks yells from the door. "What're you two doin' out here? Party's inside. We're all takin' a picture, so come on!"

And he counts it off, "Three... two... one!"

Click!

Chapter End Notes

> Next up is Sticks!!!! Gotta know what she's hidin ;3
> Also I really like the repetition of the time loop I hope you all are really annoywd by the end of this /lh but it also makes it easy to see the character development PAY CLOSE ATTENTION >:3

Sticks' Sticky Secret

Chapter Summary

> Sonic and Shadow follow Sticks around for hours, silliness chasing them wherever they go. Sonic is shocked when he finds out what she's been doing, but equally proud of her as well!

Chapter Notes

> I got so carried away writing sonadow theese chapters are only supposed to be like 1k-1.5k but they're so fucking cute

See the end of the chapter for more notes

He wakes up and yells. He screams and cries and writhes until he realizes who walked into his house. It's not Amy and Tails, but instead it's Shadow. He looks at Sonic with something almost akin to concern.

"Uhm, are you-" he starts.

"I'm great!" he smiles, eyes blown wide. "We need to leave now."

"Wait-"

"What?"

"You and I have to... we have to, erm..." Sonic is looking at him expectantly, "We have to follow Sticks," he finally spits out. "I saw her leave the village on my way here."

"Great lead, let's go," he says quickly. Then he stops in his tracks halfway to the empty doorframe and turns back. He finds a piece of paper and a pen and scribbles something down on it then nods towards the door, motioning for them to leave.

"What did you write?" Shadow asks as they run outside.

"In a couple minutes, Amy and Tails will come into my shack and ask me to settle a debate for them. I can't leave them in the dust."

"Tsk, stupid," he spits while thinking, *"He's so damn cute..."*

They catch sight of Sticks sneaking through the forest. Every time she looks behind herself, the hedgehog pair crouches in a bush or behind a tree. Sonic thinks it feels like a corny spy movie. It appears that she

slinks around for hours, nearly turning circles. They only grow further suspicious—but also pretty hungry.

They follow her into the canyon, then Sonic thinks *"That's strange. We're getting awfully close to-"* he jumps at the realization. He looks at Shadow and says, "Sticks is gonna destroy the Cubots!"

"Huh. Good riddance," he shrugs, turning to walk away.

"Nuh uh!" the blue hedgehog shoots back, grabbing him by the quill. "We're stopping her, genius!"

He tugs Shadow by the arm down further into the canyon. This results in Shadow smacking into one of the rocks and losing his footing. He slips, falling forward, but just as soon as his head is about to smack into the ground, he stops.

His back is nearly horizontal to the ground, but Sonic's hands are holding him up. One sits nestled into his back and the other is just below it, on his waist.

So Shadow does what any coherent hedgehog would do and punches Sonic in the nose. Unfortunately, this results in both of them falling. This time, his face is nestled right in the white fluff of his chest.

"Nice play, universe..."

Blood drips from Sonic's nose, staining the pure white fur. He looks dazed, peering up at Shadow with squinting eyes. Then he sits up, supported by his paws on either side of Shadow. "Dude, what the hell?"

Shadow moves him aside with a knee, no matter how much he was enjoying the view. "Don't touch me," he spits, standing up easily. "Did you really just jump off of a cliff?" he asks, looking up at the rather high precipice.

"Yeah. Why?" he answers as he stands up, rubbing his sore muzzle.

"That's stupid and reckless."

"*I'm* stupid and reckless. What's your point?"

Shadow growls, turning around for some semblance of eye contact, "I don't find it funny that you play with your life like that."

"Well it's my life and I could do without it," he chuckles, making

Shadow oddly nervous. "We're losing ground now! We need to get over there before Sticks commits third degree vehicular homicide!"

Sonic leaves him sitting dumbly in the dust again. His head is ringing with the words he said, but he can't make sense of it all. The way he's so nonchalant about it really makes his spine itch. Nonetheless, he follows Sonic.

He's once again peeking, but this time from behind a large rock. It looks right into the Cubot valley. They're surprised to find that there's no signs of violence anywhere. No explosions or screams of terror, it's dead silent. They spot Sticks, but she doesn't look so threatened the way she usually does around robots. One of the Cubots is holding her hand, and she's smiling down listening to what they're saying.

"What..." Sonic mutters in surprise. "I was *not* expecting this."

"I'll say. Isn't she the resident robot hater?"

"Yeah," he confirms, leaving their cover. "Hey, Sticks!"

Sticks panics instantly at the sight of him. Her eyes blow wide and she almost instinctively smacks the self-destruct button on the Cubot's head. She shouts over the explosion, "Hi Sonic! What's up?"

"Sticks! Why'd you do that?" he questions as he walks up to her. "I- we saw you out here being friendly just a few seconds ago!"

The badger denies this, shaking her head. "No I wasn't."

"We saw you!" Shadow reiterates in annoyance.

"I'm not gettin' outta this one, am I?" she sighs.

"Nope!" Sonic chimes.

"I come down here every now and then to make sure these little guys are okay. They're so dumb it's like letting a group of soft boiled eggs with googly eyes start a society!" she tells him, motioning to the pair of onlooking Cubots who yelp and run away.

"You were only being friendly with the Cubots, though. I don't see what's so wrong with that, Sticks."

"You know exactly what's wrong with it!" she shouts at him, balling her fists. Shadow takes his cue and slinks away. "I'm Sticks—a crazy, robot-hating, superstitious badger! *This* doesn't exactly align with my

interests, y'know?"

Sonic can't help the grin that climbs onto his face. He looks almost nervous as he corrects her, "I wouldn't say that! You can still be the crazy, robot-hating, superstitious badger that you are and hang with the Cubots."

She just turns away from him with her arms crossed and nose turned up.

He has to stand and think for a moment, his paw sitting comically under his chin. "You're letting yourself be shaped by what others think you are. The world isn't black and white, you don't have to be stuck to one side of extremes."

"What're you even talking about?" she dismisses him with a slight wave of her paw.

"Sticks, listen to me!" he declares in desperation. "Me, I got stuck in my own head, too. I thought I had to be the arrogant hero type everyone thought I was. Now, I know. I know I like picking flowers and painting a-and lately I've been really interested in the migration patterns of birds. Not exactly the most heroic of me."

"You're tellin' me *you're* a birdwatcher?" Sticks laughs at him, gently enough that he can remain non-hostile. "I guess I see what you're sayin'" she says almost sadly, "Just don't tell the others yet. Or *else*."

Sonic zips his lips closed with an imaginary zipper and winks. "Lets go get this Cubot fixed up now! I'm sure Tails is bored," he quips sarcastically, turning the bot's head in his paws.

Tails is nowhere near bored but they don't send the broken Cubot away. Sonic has to be met with the same shifty and secretive Tails from before. In this timeline, they're still keeping their secret. He forces himself not to dwell on it though, they can talk when everything is back in working order.

"The rest of the gang's all at Meh Burger already. We gotta get goin'," Sticks tells them as they send the fixed Cubot on its way.

"*Finally!* I'm practically starving to death!" Sonic complains, clutching his stomach for show.

"That's right, you haven't eaten today," Shadow realizes aloud. Then he tacks on, "*Idiot*."

"Is he coming with us?" Sticks looks to Sonic skeptically.

He smiles and hooks his arm through Shadow's, indignantly saying, "Yeah he is! He's stuck with me."

She shrugs and the four of them begin their trek to the restaurant. They find Amy, annoyed nearly to the point of violence as Knuckles stammers on about nothing. He's mostly making explosion sounds with his mouth.

Today Sonic feels a lot more inclined to sit and laugh with his friends, and they all seem better for it. He even tells them about Shadow's fall and getting punched in the nose. Of course, he leaves out specific details.

Shadow himself had never been to Meh Burger so the group enjoyed watching his face twist as he bit into the *really real* meat and what definitely wasn't a shoelace.

They all help each other get into costume and skip to the party together, all the while singing Halloween songs *way* off-key. Everyone stumbles into Amy's house giggling and laughing between themselves. Their sides hurt from a joke none of them can remember but they've added onto until it became stale.

Yet, before he's ready for it to be over his paws are wrapped back around that wretched device and a voice that's barely his own escapes his throat. And he counts it off, "Three... two... one!"

Click!

Chapter End Notes

> Next up is Knuckles! Yet, we might find that Sonic has started to share more about himself instead.
> You guys dont get how much I loved writing this it is really important to talk to your friends and make sure they know you love them :>

Knuckles Knows

Chapter Summary

> Shadow and Sonic are getting along better and talk to Knuckles! However, Shadow's guilt is getting the best of him and he ends up hurting Sonic in his effort to make it up to him. Yet, his turmoil aids in turning this curse around!

Chapter Notes

> Boom Kncukles is good for hugging I need to abuse that

See the end of the chapter for more notes

Sonic wakes up. It's a lot earlier than usual, but he doesn't hate it. The sunset is just finishing its earliest stage outside. Per time loop rules, he shouldn't be waking up at a different time. The last two days Shadow has interrupted this. As he shakes him awake he can't help but wonder just how early Shadow wakes up.

"Why do you keep coming in my house?" Sonic asks groggily as he throw the quilt off of himself. Then a heavily smell hits his nose. "Oh, you-"

"You never ate yesterday- or today, I guess. So I came early and made breakfast."

"Shadow-"

"Don't make me regret it."

Sonic snorts, "I was going to say thank you, prick. What is it, pancakes?"

Shadow laughs a little, freaking Sonic out, "How are you able to tell?"

He practically lights up at the confirmation and leaps out of bed, "Shads I *love* pancakes. I make them all the time! Well, when I actually cook."

The two stuffed themselves with stacks of pancakes sitting together on the floor. Shadow isn't able to complain about the barren state of Sonic's shack because he lives in a cave, but he would if it were an option. They sit until the usual rant comes.

"The lights should be *pastel* orange and purple! It will provide an even contrast that also gives off more light and brings out the color of the other decor!"

"But this is about bringing out the traditional feeling and spirit of the holiday! If we use neon it'll be spookier and more intense!"

"What do you think, Sonic?" This time when Amy looks at him she sees Shadow sitting there and is taken aback. "A-and you, Shadow."

"Do both," the two hedgehogs say in unison before delving into a fit of giggles.

"Amy I'm scared, hold me," Tails says blankly, jumping into her arms if only to be held.

"Oh hush, he just came to make me breakfast," Sonic defends him, "Shadow's a good dude."

"No I'm not."

"Huh?"

"I'm evil," he grins.

Sonic punches him in the shoulder. "Oh shut up," he says, "Shads and I actually have to get going. I'll see you two later!" He grabs Shadow's paw and they exit together, leaving their friends to sit and wallow in shared confusion.

"That was so scary..."

"What? Shadow?"

"No, Sonic out of bed before nine."

Amy drops Tails on the floor.

The two hedgehogs make their way down the beach together, still holding onto each other. They spot their next victim: Knuckles. He's in the middle of a bench set when Sonic comes bounding up to him with a poor-tempered hedgehog in tow.

"Hey Knuckles!" he announces, "How many reps you got left?"

He sets the bar back on the rack and sits up, looking Sonic dead in the eye. "I forgot to count."

Knuckles typically goes until he drops. "So Knuckles, is there anything you've been, I dunno, *hiding* from me? Any... *secrets?*"

"Uhh secrets? I pee in pools and sometimes I forget to brush my teeth but I don't do anything about it," he answers easily. Sonic could've gone a lifetime without knowing that, but luckily, he doesn't swim.

"That's not what he means. Is there something serious? Something that's bothering you?" Shadow fills in for him.

He tilts his head like a curious puppy, "Nope! I don't think so."

"There's gotta be."

"There's not."

"Yes, there is!"

"And who are *you* to tell *me* I'm hiding something, Mister Mysterious?"

"Oh, you little-"

"Shut up!" Sonic suddenly screams, his fists baling at his sides as his voice breaks. "Shut up, shut up! Just *shut up!* Stop already!"

Sonic gets away so fast after he blows up that Shadow can't chase after him. All he can think about is how good of a morning they were seeming to have.

"What's... what's going on?" Knuckles asks him meekly. He can tell he's concerned.

Shadow spins around to yell regardless, "You could've helped! You should've just-" but he can't. He sees his face and can't be mad anymore. It isn't his fault. He takes a deep breath; in and out. "Sonic is having some... issues recently. I'm trying to help but I clearly just made it worse."

"What do you mean?" he speaks just as shyly.

"I'm not at liberty to disclose such a thing," Shadow says sternly. "I'm sorry for being angry with you, but this is serious. We need to split up and find him before he gets himself hurt. And whatever you do, don't tell anyone else. This stays between us."

He nods determinedly, "Got it."

Knuckles trudges through the forest for hours. He accumulates an array of scratches and bites but not once does the thought of surrender cross his mind. He knows he'll find Sonic if it's the last thing he does!

Finally, he hears a rustle in the canopy. At first he thinks it's a bird, but they aren't usually big and bright blue. The falling leaves means there's little room for hiding in them. "Sonic! I saw you, stop hiding!" There's no answer, so he sits next to the tree where Sonic is nestled in a limb. It looks like he's been crying. "What's got you so upset?" Knuckles asks him.

Sonic doesn't even waste time trying to deflect, "You guys! You guys and your stupid complexes and emotions and *me* not being able to talk to a single one of you! I don't want to try anymore!"

"Woah bud, slow down! You're okay," Knuckles attempts to console him. "I understand what you mean, but-"

Sonic cuts him off abruptly, yelling, "No you don't! You don't even have to know what's going on! You get to sit around in your perfect, pretty world and know absolutely *nothing*. Nothing!"

Knuckles is starting to feel frightened. He thinks Sonic is, too. There's one thing Sonic does best, and that's running. Especially when he's frightened. He's like a cat in that sense. So Knuckles knows he can't let Sonic escape. "Can you at least come back home?"

"Why should I?" he asks pathetically.

"I'm worried about you," Knuckles answers, "You're famous and yet you're the loneliest guy I know!"

"I'm not..." he tries, but ultimately it's a tough argument as he isolates himself in a tree. Knuckles can hear him burst into tears again.

"You guys came out there to ask me something. I guess I do have an answer to it now," he says solemnly. "I don't understand you guys. I'm... I'm an idiot. I don't get what you guys are feeling and you don't trust me enough to tell me what you're going through. So I'm saying it now, *talk to me*."

And Sonic realizes he's gotten what he wants, but he isn't any better for it. He stammers, "Wh-what?"

"I'm your friend, so trust me!"

He slowly clambers out of the tree like he's scared Knuckles will bite him if he makes any sudden moves. His shoe crushes the reddish leaves underfoot as he sits with his back to the trunk. Knuckles smiles at him with something almost akin to a proud parent. "I *do* trust you, Knuckles. Look, I-I can't..." he sighs deeply, hiding his face between his knees. "I want out of this."

"Out of what?"

"I can't tell you! I can't tell you, and that's the worst part! I swear, though, I *swear* I'll fix it. Then, I'll talk to you for however long you want."

He shines with excitement at Sonic's final sentence. Then, giggling, he traps Sonic in his arms and stands up, picking him up off the ground. "Aw yeah! I like talkin' to you, bud."

"I like talking to you too, Knuckles."

"We oughta get home! If we hurry, we can still meet the gang for lunch!"

"Nah, let's take it slow."

And they do. Even if the others are nearly finished with their meal when they get there, because they still wait. Knuckles told him about all the different animals he'd seen in the trees on the way there. Every now and then, he'd tell him about the birds that live there and the ones that migrate. Or he'd tell Knuckles about the flowers.

"...but what's the point if he- they all just forget it?" Sonic complains as he helps Shadow pin a horn to his head. His costume isn't fully assembled because he spent the whole day on the other side of the island looking for Sonic. No one told him he'd been found already. "What if I can't fix it in time?"

Shadow bites back his guilt-driven proclamation of love because Sonic is clearly in a bad spot. He still has time to gather his confidence and kiss him. Totally. Just not right now! Of course he'll wait until after Sonic is painfully vulnerable with everyone he loves. He can't help but feel that it's his fault Sonic's in this position, but he *knows* he'll make it up to him.

"You will," he says as he fastens the buckles on his boots, "you have two days left. If we go to Amy's house when she comes home with the camera, everything goes back to normal. We're right on schedule."

"But what if something else happens?" Sonic finally stops trying to pin the horn and sits on the ground beside him. They can hear laughter from inside; Knuckles must be roasting everyone again.

"It won't. I'm here to make sure of it,"

Something else will happen.

"I'm scared."

"I know you are, this is scary," Shadow validates matter-of-factly, taking over Sonic's original task. "It'll all be over soon."

"If we ever get back-"

"*When*"

"Yeah. When we get back, you won't go back to your cave, will you?"

"I probably will, why?"

"I think you should stick around here, y'know-"

"Sonic! Shadow!" Sticks yells from the door. "What're you two doin' out here? Party's inside. We're all takin' a picture, so come on!"

And he counts it off, "Three... two... one!"

Click!

Chapter End Notes

> Next up is Amy! If anyone can deal with an emotionally distraught Sonic, it's her.
> His walls are down. RAAAAAAUGH XD

Amy's Anxieties

Chapter Summary

> Finally, Sonic's reached the last name on his list. He isn't expecting to receive the same comfort from her, but it *is* Amy, after all.

Chapter Notes

> This was honestly the best chapter to write so far i love these two they're literally trans wlw and mlm solidarity and the best of friends. They love each other so so much!!!!!!!

See the end of the chapter for more notes

Sonic wakes up. Shadow isn't in his shack today, so he's instead alerted to the argument. "The lights should be *pastel* orange and purple! It will provide an even contrast that also gives off more light and brings out the color of the other decor!" Amy is shouting as she enters the door to his shack. She's holding bags stuffed full of Halloween decorations, as is her debate partner, Tails.

Then Tails follows up with: "But this is about bringing out the traditional feeling and spirit of the holiday! If we use neons it'll be spookier and more intense!"

Amy doesn't even skip a beat. Her head whips to Sonic, now lying awake in his hammock. "What do you think, Sonic?" she asks.

"Just use both," he answers, trying to keep the annoyed strain out of his voice. "I've got places to be now, see you later, Ames," he bids farewell quickly, speeding out his front doorway.

"...Did he just leave the house before nine?"

Sonic easily finds Shadow outside his cave. His eyes are trained forward and his ears are set back like he's thinking really hard about something. Then, he notices Sonic has arrived and stops his pacing. As Sonic looks around he can't help but think about how boring it must be out here. "You didn't show up at my place. Aren't you coming back?" he asks first, crossing his arms.

"I didn't think you would need me today," Shadow admits, confused.

"I-I guess I don't," Sonic mutters, "but I *want* you with me. It's easier knowing you're there behind me and you remember."

Then Sonic takes his paw. Shadow's own paws are scarred and telling like his, but they don't tremble the way his do. He can hardly grip Shadow with the way it spasms and taps his wrist. He can tell it upsets him.

"I'll go with you," Shadow says.

"*Thank you.*"

Sonic briefly hugs him, and if he weren't so concerned with the blue hedgehog's recent behavior, he might've bit the bullet and kissed him. *"Is the author using that phrase correctly?"*

They wait on Amy's doorstep until she returns home with that evil camera box. She seems surprised to see him, but can tell there's something on his mind. Plus, he seems anxious and fidgety. *"He's totally about to confess to me."*

"Hey Amy!" he greets, waving rapidly at her. "Can we talk?"

She swallows nervously but agrees, "For sure! Let me get this inside first."

That's when Shadow appears. She nearly jumps, but he graciously takes the box from her hands and brings it inside, it looks like he's scowling at it. "What's *he* doing here?" she asks surprisedly, "N-not that I don't want him here, of course!"

"He's my emotional support," he admits feebly. "He might not try to show it, but he's a great guy." He takes her to sit on the railing of her porch. Usually, she'd yell at him for this, but he seems genuinely bothered so she joins him. "I wanted to ask-"

"Sonic, I'm a lesbian," she blurts, making his face drop.

"What?"

"I'm a lesbian. I like girls."

"Is this a coming out post?" he asks sincerely.

"Is that not what... you..." she trails off, her face heating up at the fact she'd assumed.

"I'm gay too, Amy. That's not relevant, though!" he refocuses on the topic, "I just want to know if there's anything that's bothering you."

It's strange, she thinks, usually Sonic doesn't care about feelings in general. This isn't like him, but it's certainly welcome. He's rarely attempted to empathize, especially straightforwardly like this. "Sonic, I'm really impressed you're asking, but it's going to take a bit more than that."

"What do you mean?"

"I can't expect to be vulnerable with you unless you are first."

He waits, deep in thought. He's gotten more used to this lately, but it's different with Amy. She's the exact opposite of him. She confronts her emotions and considers those of other people. It's part of why he admires her. He can't give her a stupid answer.

"I'm scared that I'm detached," he starts, "That I'm barely even human —or whatever. I can't understand you guys or talk to you and I'm- I'm miserable. I'm lonely." He chuckles sharply. "Ironic, isn't it?"

"Not at all," she comforts him, "Often times those most surrounded by people are the loneliest."

"I can't even connect to my best friends anymore, you don't trust me. But- but I'm doing better. I'm putting more effort into building it up again."

"You're doing great, Sonic," she says, smiling at him like she means it. He realizes she *does*. Her paw covers his, stroking the back of it.

"You promise?"

"I do," she says sweetly, "I over-empathize with others. I forgive everyone and they walk all over me. It makes me sad—disappointed even. My kindness, it- it's not weakness."

"Of course it's not!" he says passionately, brows furrowing. "Amy, I think you're the strongest person I know! You shouldn't even let the thought pass your mind!" He now takes both of her paws into his own, turning their bodies towards each other.

She seems surprised. He doesn't usually get do worked up about this, but it seems like he's genuinely trying to convince her. "You really mean it," she points out.

"Of course I do!" his paws move to each side of her face and he presses their foreheads together. Neither can suppress the big grin that creeps onto their faces. "Amy, you are the most perfect girl in the world. You got that? You're strong and you have a great heart, don't lose that. Don't lose yourself."

"I won't," she says, sniffling. Her voice is breaking but she still laughs. "And you, Sonic, you don't have to be so alone. We're here, even for the ugly parts."

He can't help but give a broken chuckle too. "I believe it," he whispers.

They sit there for a while, Amy nestled into his shoulder. Shadow is watching them from the window, completely forgotten. He smiles. This cursed camera was exactly what this friend group needed.

Shadow looks at the wretched box and groans. He'd lied to Sonic and sent him on a wild goose chase collecting his friends' secrets instead of telling him the truth. He can't wait any longer, that'd just be cruel. He has to come right out and say it.

"'Sonic, you and I are soulmates and I lied. The only way to shut off the loop is to...' no, no, that doesn't sound right. 'Sonic, we need to...' no, that's even worse. If I want this done without revealing that I lied I have to get him to fall for me," he thinks, beginning to pace. *"If that fails, I can knock him out and do it. Is that ethical? Last resort I tell him I lied, get it over with, then kill him. That sounds g-"*

"Shadow? Shadow, you good?" Sonic's voice breaks him out of his stupor.

He stops in his tracks and whips his head towards the pair who just entered. "Die," he states.

"Not before you," he shoots back playfully. "If you're staying then you're putting up decorations for the party tonight! Time to put those jet boots to work, we've got banners galore!"

"They're air shoes."

"Whatever they are it's clear you're insecure about your height. Suck it up and work, emo boy."

Amy glances at Sonic quickly, a knowing grin on her face. Shadow misses it, but he doesn't need to see it to know. In all actuality, he's always known.

Sonic's already fallen for him.

He just has to do something about it before it's too late.

Once again, they arrive at the party together. Amy's suspicious as they walk through the door as Shadow doesn't seem anywhere near as angry as he used to be. She always assumed they'd been meeting in secret, but she thought they were looking for a fight. Not... this. Now, she really doesn't want to know what they do in their time.

She notices how Sonic shares his drink with him and protects him from Tails' harsh glare. She sees how Shadow stares at him and really wishes she didn't. She thinks anyone who witnesses these two is entitled to financial compensation.

Knuckles has just finished his roast session with Amy's yelling, "That's *enough!* We're all here now, let's take a picture!" Then she adds on, "Before I kill all of you guys and force your bodies to eat a meal in peace."

"What was that?" Sonic asks, swiveling his head around. It was for show, he'd actually heard it loud and clear this time.

"Nothing, dearest! Let me fetch my camera. It's an antique from the thrift store, so it should turn out pretty cool and spooky!" she explains excitedly, jumping up and down. Her heels click on the floor as she prances away and drags the hefty camera back.

Everyone stands in order—even Shadow. He's agreed to smile this time, since this is the picture that's actually going to take. Sonic is elected to take the picture because he can run and pose before the flash goes off. So he counts it off for a final time, "Three... two... one!"

Click!

Chapter End Notes

but little did they know...

Shadow's Story

Chapter Summary

> Finally, Sonic speaks to Shadow to break the curse. Little does he know, everything he'd done was useless. Still, they follow the rules and manage to break the time loop together!

Chapter Notes

> Shadow's turn but with a homosexual twist ;3

See the end of the chapter for more notes

...And Sonic wakes up. Shadow isn't there so he knows he needs to get out before he hears that awful conversation again. Still, he leaves a note. Then he gets the hell out of there, choosing to wander lost around the forest again. There, nothing would repeat, ringing in his ears.

He doesn't have enough energy to stay awake for long and finds a trusty limb to rest on. He's been found napping in stranger places, so no one should question it. He doesn't move for a while because he feels next to dead. He's given up. If that wasn't the extent of what he had to do then it must be impossible. He's already slept through the majority of the day, so even if he *had* a chance he doesn't now.

The hours tick by steadily and he can't get up. He knows he wants to, but he just *can't.* He can feel his eyes drooping again when he hears someone. It's just a crunch of leaves at first, but then they call up to him, "Get down here." He glances down and sees Shadow, but pretends he doesn't. "I'm serious. I'm not letting you rot away like this, so come on."

"You know what we have to do," he mutters all too quietly.

"What?" he yells up. They're too far apart, Sonic is quite high up. "I can't hear you."

"You know what we have to do!" he screams, rolling around to his other side. He doesn't want to look at Shadow.

"I do," he agrees, looking down, *"He knows I lied?"*

"But you won't," he says so softly, "You won't."

"Come down here and we'll talk."

It takes a while, but he eventually obliges. He painfully climbs down the tree, his bones cracking after not moving all day. He lands on the ground, caught in Shadow's waiting arms. "I know how you are, Shads. I don't know why, but I'd rather fuck up time for all eternity than make you uncomfortable telling me your secrets."

"Maybe he didn't figure out I lied..." Shadow concludes in his head thankfully. "I'm more worried about you right now. That can wait."

"No it can't! This is the last day, Shadow!"

"Just give me a little more time!" he shouts suddenly, instantly sorry over how frightened Sonic looks at him. "Another hour, maybe two. That's going to be enough, right?"

"I-I don't know what time it is. We took the picture just after sunset, but-"

"We have time, trust me. I trust you, so trust me." Slowly, Sonic nods. "Good. Now we're going somewhere else. You don't look too well and I'm suspecting you haven't had anything to eat yet."

"I've been sleeping."

"All day?"

"...Yes?"

"Are there any licensed therapists on this island?"

After his current character arc is over, Shadow's next dream is to get a PhD in Psychology.

For now, he impresses Sonic with his survival skills, putting together a delicious stew over a campfire. He has no clue the variety of herbs it's composed of, but it tastes delicious. It's no wonder Meh Burger seems appalling to him! After he sips a couple bowls of the stuff he feels much better. Putting his trust in Shadow is difficult because they stopped fighting maliciously years ago, but they only just started getting along.

Luckily, Sonic's always had a thing for dark and mysterious men.

Their meal is near silent, but that's only because Shadow is lost in his mind. He's trying to think about what he can say to Sonic. He doesn't

have many secrets—his life is too boring. The only one is the *glaringly* obvious one that is *"I love you."*

Sonic notices his uneasiness, but he's just as tense. Eventually, he turns to Shadow and in the kindest voice he can muster, he says, "I hate to say it, but it's going to start getting dark soon. Can we..?"

Shadow focuses on his voice quickly and nods, "Oh, yeah. Yeah, it's no issue."

"I wanna take you somewhere first, though! I think it'll be easier," he says, holding out his paw for Shadow to take.

Shadow stares down at it. Again, he notices how shaky it is. So when he's hoisted up, he doesn't let go. He wonders if it's just Sonic being anxious or if it has something to do with those elusive scars Shadow's only ever caught glimpses of. Either way, he's happy Sonic doesn't try to get him to let go.

It actually emboldens him. He smiles slightly, puffing out his chest as Sonic leads him to his doom. He *knows* Sonic likes him. If this whole ordeal has been anything to go off of, the universe has declared them soulmates. They're fated lovers, practically written in the stars!

He is going to do this!

Then Sonic is sitting him down on the edge of a cliff, their feet dangling off. They can see so much of the island and the beautiful colors that fall brings. The sky seems so big when it's not behind the canopy and the ocean stretches on forever.

It's like it's only them in the entire world.

He can't do this.

Sonic is already talking though. His heart is racing now to drown him out, reminding him of the time he'd heard Sonic's heartbeat. It's always so fast, even if he's just standing there—like a mouse. And oh *chaos,* he's in deep.

"Look, if it's worth anything, I don't think you have to say anything *too* embarrassing," Sonic kind of giggles sadly, "You've found out more about me in the last few days than anyone's known about me in my entire life. I suppose I have, too."

Shadow goes to open his mouth, making Sonic shut his. They repeat

this a few times, each time making Shadow's face warmer. His throat dries up and he finally spits out, "I... Sonic, I-" his stomach drops and he scoffs, looking down in defeat. "I *can't,*" he chuckles painfully at himself, "I'm really sorry, I can't."

Sonic huffs as his brows slant, but he doesn't seem that upset. "Shads, I used to be terrified of you," he starts, looking up towards the sky. The sunset looks beautiful, but it's the exact same sunset he's seen for the last week. "You were overpowered. You beat me half to death. Lets be honest, I never stood a chance. You could kill me now, but you won't," he puts his paw over Shadow's, "I tamed myself a lil' hedgehog," he grins. "After that, I realized you were all alone. I think if I were alone like you were I would've lashed out a long time ago. You're strong, I'm just a man. You're not evil. You're not even scary or bad. You're *lonely,*" he says the word like it's poison, and it might as well be with the way his chest starts to ache and throb. His voice cracks, eroded by tears.

Shadow doesn't like this, he wraps his arm around Sonic's shoulder and pulls him into a tight hug. He has to blink back his own tears. He knows Sonic is only saying this because of their situation, but he's glad it's coming out. He just doesn't want Sonic to be upset, he hates seeing him cry.

Shadow shushes him, swiping tears from his eyes with a thumb. "You don't have to-" he starts.

"*No.* I realized I couldn't pity you like that. Is it so wrong that I thought about you like that? Was I wrong; were you fine? I-I just wanted to- to do..." he trails off, tears now falling like rain onto Shadow's shoulder. He bawls, unable to get any other words out.

Shadow rubs little circles into his back in an effort to comfort him, and it only takes a few moments for him to regain his mind. Shadow has grown angry, though. He feels like hitting something. Not Sonic, of course. He's angry with himself for allowing this to happen. The sunset is now in it's peak, so he knows it's now or never. He can fix this.

He holds Sonic's chin with one gentle paw and the other rests covering his paw on the ground beside them. "You're beautiful," he says, "You are so beautiful, so please don't cry anymore."

Sonic's eyes are so wide and shiny with tears it almost looks unreal. Then, Shadow connects their lips in the shortest, sweetest kiss ever

recorded. He quickly draws his paw back to his lap, but is met again with Sonic's lips on his own. Sonic practically jumps onto him, arms around his figure. Neither one of them know how kissing works but they work something out and it's *magical.*

Sonic always hated kiss scenes in movies, and it's equally as gross in real life, but he finds he nearly doesn't care. Usually, the actors close their eyes, but they can't help but stare into each other's so up close. Shadow's paws are on his face suddenly, wiping away his tears with his thumbs.

Sonic pulls away giggling, pushing him to the ground and stuffing his face into his chest fur. Shadow can't help but laugh too, freely into the darkening sky. "I love you," he giggles drunkenly, "That's it, I love you."

Sonic squeaks a bit then his ears perk up and he's up on his feet in a second. "That's it! That's it, that's what it is! Shads, we did it!" he cheers, moving around animatedly, "We're gonna be late for the party! I-I gotta go! I need to go get dressed and- and... thank you! *Thank you!*"

He races off, leaving Shadow stunned and in the dust. He doesn't mind it that much. He couldn't deal with staying in the same proximity with Sonic for any longer or else he thinks he'd explode. He props himself up and stares off into the sky in a love-induced haze. He can deal with being a bit later than usual if it means not going to the party with a giddy grin on his face.

By the time he gets there, Sonic is already deep in a conversation. It seems the events of the day don't even phase him. Then he spots Shadow in the doorway and is on him in a second, "Hey Shads! Good to see ya!" he says like they weren't... *together* a moment ago.

The others seem surprised at their sudden friendly development, but decide, *"Eh, it's Sonic. Everyone ends up liking him at some point."*

"You're just in time for the picture!" then he leans in closer, "Smile again for me, will ya?" And Shadow isn't immune to his charm so he nods, it's about all he can manage.

Amy's heels click on the floor as she prances away and drags the hefty camera back. Everyone stands in order while Sonic is elected to take the picture because he can run and pose before the flash goes off. So he counts it off, "Three... two... one!"

Click! m

And Sonic opens his eyes to see the defeated camera's own. He has to stop himself from crying out in joy the fact that he's *still here.* Amy is picking out the photo already, but she seems displeased. "Sonic, your eyes are closed!"

"What?" he shouts back, looking over her shoulder to confirm her claim.

"Shadow, is that supposed to be..." Tails trails off, "Is that your smile?"

Shadow's mouth is wide and all his sharp teeth are on display, but it's impossible to call it a smile. It looks more like he's growling at someone. The rest of his body is stick-straight and his eyes look about as angry as usual, but Sonic finds it charming.

The gang spends the rest of the night together. They bob for apples, play pin the tail on the suspiciously obtained, life-sized Sonic cardboard cutout, and Knuckles destroys everyone in Go Fish. Then, once Tails and Knuckles get sick from the sheer amount of candy they've ingested, they all tell scary stories. Sonic's go-to is the dog in the closet one, which everyone quickly shuts down.

"Fine, fine, I'll pick something else!" he giggles, trying to escape from Sticks' paw over his mouth. Instead, he makes up something on the spot. It's always a wonder how he can make up such vivid stories in a short notice. This one is about an unsolved string of murders in a forest. He describes the bare trees and crimson snow so richly that they can imagine it, then finishes with an ominous, "...but once he finally started getting his memories back, he wondered if it was true. Maybe he really *was* a monster."

Everyone is silent for a moment before Sticks' voice cuts through, "So who's goin' next?"

Tails passes out in Sonic's lap eventually. He pretends to be too wary of waking his little brother so that Shadow will go get him another glass of cider. He really doesn't mind in the first place. Then they watch some horror movies, as if the earlier thrill wasn't enough. Knuckles cowers into Amy's shoulder, holding onto her tightly every time a suspenseful scene comes on. He's also the next to go, snoring loudly. Eventually he gets kicked off the couch.

By the end of the second movie, Sonic and Shadow are the only ones still standing. Shadow is sitting in front of him, but on the floor with

his back to him. He reaches a tired paw out to caress a dark shoulder and Shadow jolts, but otherwise makes no reaction.

"I was in the forest a couple months ago," Sonic says quietly, his voice tired from all the laughing they've done. The television is now set to some comforting animated show set in fall. It's nearly on mute, yet his voice is drowned out by it.

"Yeah?" Shadow responds, just as tired. He doesn't get where Sonic is going with this.

"Yeah," he repeats, "I found a little cabin."

"From which your story was inspired. I see."

He chuckles, "Ever so perceptive, I see. The cabin, it was empty. No one's been there for a while and there's an eviction notice from the 90s on the door. So, I uhm... I bought it."

Shadow's ear perk, "Oh, congratulations."

"I wanted to ask you if you'd like to move in with me. We'd be—what's the word—symbiotic! I'd buy groceries, you'd cook kinda beat." The way he talks indicates he's put thought into this, and a lot of it.

"Oh."

"Is that weird?"

"Not at all. I'm just thinking, is that why there's no furniture in your shack?"

"That's *seriously* what you ask?" Sonic asks, baffled yet amused.

"Sorry. I think I'd like that, though."

"We might not be so lonely anymore. I mean, I don't feel like I am when I'm with you," he begins to slur, his eyes drooping.

His smile deepens and he turns around, "Go to bed, we'll wake up here in the morning. We've got all the time in the world, Blue."

Sonic nods groggily, whispering, "I love you too, Shads."

Chapter End Notes

I expect that you are now clapping and applauding the end of this

yes yes thank you
I'm already planning something special for christmas and i will be working on thab so if you like bloody n gory sonadow fics im your guy!?

End Notes

Hello!!! Its ya boy (?) caz and HERES A REMINDER all my art is on my instagram @neonzparklezzz and I'll be posting art for 5/6 of these chapters if anyone is interested >_

Please drop by the Archive and comment to let the creator know if you enjoyed their work!